

Capsule Summary  
SM-471  
Walter F. Crowder House  
St. George Island  
Private

Circa 1870 - 1890

The Walter F. Crowder House is significant because of its distinctive plan, consisting of two front rooms accessible by means of two separate entry doors. The circular sawn sills and wire nails suggest a construction date sometime after 1870. Based on land record research it seems likely that Walter F. Crowder built the dwelling for his family.

In 1872, James Duvall, a resident of Washington, D.C., sold 10 acres of land on St. George Island to Walter F. Crowder, Sr. for \$275. It remains unclear how Duvall became possessed of the property. It may be that he inherited it or that he acquired the property through marriage.

Walter Crowder was born in Virginia and is listed in the 1880 census as a farmer and pilot. Following Crowder's death in the 1890s, his property was surveyed by George B. Dent and divided into four lots to be divided among his heirs. Lot No. 3, on which this house stands, was allotted to Walter F. Crowder.

SM-471, Walter F. Crowder House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: none

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. **SM 471**

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Walter F. Crowder House

**2. Location**

street & number Thomas Road    not for publication

city, town St. George Island    vicinity of    congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>X</u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donald D. & Pamela W. Mundell

street & number    telephone no.:(301) 994 2013

city, town Piney Point state and zip code Maryland

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse    liber EWA 927

street & number    folio 475

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title   

date       federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. **SM 471**

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Walter F. Crowder House is located on the east side of Thomas Road on St. George Island in St. Mary's County, Maryland. There is one outbuilding on the property. House lots border the Crowder House on the north and south, and the rear yard extends to the shore of Island Creek. The main block of the two-story, four-bay frame structure has been enlarged with the addition of two one-story wings on the west elevation. The house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Probably built around 1890, the Crowder House is supported by a brick pier foundation. The exterior is sheathed with asphalt shingles that cover the original weatherboard siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is pierced by two central fifteen-light entrance doors on the first floor. These doors are sheltered by a shed roof addition that has been enclosed with glass windows. One two-over-two sash shuttered window flanks this pair of doors on both the north and south sides of the entrance. The second floor is pierced by four two-over-two sash shuttered windows.

The south elevation of the main block is a blind gable end. Attached to the main block is a one-story addition that extends to the west. Formerly a bathroom, the small wing is pierced by a window opening. To the north and east of this wing is a larger, gable roof addition that served as a kitchen wing. The kitchen wing has a porch that extends across the first floor. Both additions are supported by cinderblock piers.

The east elevation of the main block is pierced by one two-over-two sash window. The gable end of the kitchen wing on this east side of the house is pierced by two two-light windows. A stove pipe projects from the roof of the wing. The second floor of the main block is pierced by four two-over-two sash windows.

The north elevation of the one-story kitchen wing is pierced by a four-light-over-three panel entrance door and two two-over-two sash shuttered windows. The main block is a blind gable end.

The interior of the main block consists of two rooms on the first and second floors. On the first floor, a partition wall separates the north and south parlor. A doorway is located at the east end of the wall and provides access between the two rooms. The stair to the second floor is located at the west end of the wall and is enclosed. It appears that both the north and south ends of the house were originally fitted with interior brick chimneys. The larger one-story rear addition consists of one

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM 471

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Unknown

Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Walter F. Crowder House is significant because of its distinctive plan, consisting of two front rooms accessible by means of two separate entry doors. The circular sawn sills and wire nails suggest a construction date sometime after 1870. Based on land record research it seems likely that Walter F. Crowder built the dwelling for his family. Although the house is in a very deteriorated condition, the current owner has plans to renovate it.

In 1872, James Duvall, a resident of Washington, D.C., sold 10 acres of land on St. George Island to Walter F. Crowder, Sr. for \$275. It remains unclear how Duvall became possessed of the property. It may be that he inherited it or that he acquired the property through his wife.

Walter Crowder was born in Virginia and is listed in the 1880 census as a farmer and pilot. Following Crowder's death in the 1890s, his property was surveyed by George B. Dent and divided into four lots to be divided among his heirs. Lot No. 4, on which this house stands, was allotted to Walter F. Crowder. It seems unlikely that this house was the home of Crowder's father. The family dwelling house probably stood on the parcel allotted to Crowder's wife, identified as the "Widow's Dower." Crowder died in 1911 and his property was sold to Robert Sylvester Crowder. In 1948, Lot No. 3 was split into two parts and divided between the heirs of Robert Sylvester Crowder. Robert Vaughn Crowder received the southern half of the lot.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. **SM 471**

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acresQuadrangle name St. George IslandQuadrangle scale 1: 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning & Zoningdate December 1994street & number 328 Washington Streettelephone (301) 475 4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHOP/DHOD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2020  
814-7500

SM-471, Walter F. Crowder House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

room. There is no partition wall between the addition and the north parlor.

The one outbuilding on the property is a particle board structure that rests on a cement pad. It is currently used for storage.

SM-471, Walter F. Crowder House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Donald D. and Pamela W. Mundell  
FROM: G. Thomas Daugherty, substitute Trustee.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 927, folio 475.  
DATE: September 29, 1994.  
NOTES: Transfer of property as a result of foreclosure.

TO: John T. Daugherty and Paul J. Bailey, Trustees for MD Bank and Trust Co.  
FROM: Antoinette Marie (Thompson) Bernazzani  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 697, folio 313.  
DATE: July 13, 1992.  
NOTES: This is a Deed of Trust.

TO: Antoinette Marie (Thompson) Bernazzani  
FROM: Antoinette Marie (Thompson) Bernazzani and Victoria Sue Anderson, Co-Personal Reps. of the estate of Ralph Anthony Bernazzani, estate No. 5571.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EWA 697, folio 310.  
DATE: July 13, 1992.  
NOTES: Transfer of the south half of the lot formerly owned by Robert Sylvester Crowder.

TO: Ralph A. Bernazzani  
FROM: Robert V. Crowder and Dorothy H. Crowder  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 116, folio 374.  
DATE: November 12, 1964.  
NOTES: Transfer of property described above.

TO: Robert V. Crowder and Dorothy H. Crowder  
FROM: Gracia Agatha Deagle and James Emeral Deagle  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 32, folio 149.  
DATE: August 6, 1951.  
NOTES: Transfer of "The southerly half of the lot formerly owned by the late Robert Sylvester Crowder, as divided by a straight line, drawn from a point on the state road front of the said lot, said point being approximately 162 1/2 feet from the southerly boundary of said lot, it being the intention to exactly split the frontage of the original lot, and the said dividing line shall then run straight back to the shore of Island Creek, at a point in the center of the Creek shore line of the said original lot."

TO: Gracia Deagle and James Emeral Deagle  
FROM: Robert Vaughn Crowder, single.  
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 24, folio 67.



SM-471, Walter F. Crowder House  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

DATE: October 11, 1949.

NOTES: Transfer of property described above.

TO: Robert Vaughn Crowder

FROM: Mary R. Fowler

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 21, folio 190.

DATE: May 1, 1948.

NOTES: Transfer of property described above.

TO: Mary R. Fowler

FROM: Gracia Agatha Deagle and James Emeral Deagle and Robert Vaughn Crowder

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 21, folio 188.

DATE: April 24, 1948.

NOTES: Robert Sylvester Crowder died intestate in February 1946 leaving as heirs his widow Gracia and son Robert. Transfer of 3 7/10 acres known as Lot No. 3.

TO: Robert Sylvester Crowder

FROM: Charlotte B. Fowler, county treasurer.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 7, folio 471.

DATE: December 23, 1931.

NOTES: Sale of property held by Walter Crowder's heirs designated as Lot No. 3 being the said Walter F. Crowder's distributive share of Walter F. Crowder, Senior's real estate on St. Georges Island.

TO: Walter F. Crowder

FROM: Mary E. Crowder, wife of Walter F. Crowder, deceased, Ollie L. Crowder, James Crowder, John L. Crowder, sons of Walter F. Crowder.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JJG 2, folio 306.

DATE: October 6, 1894.

NOTES: Transfer of Lot No. 3 being the distributive share of the said Walter F. Crowder's real estate on St. Georges Island, being 3 7/10 acres and the same as that surveyed by George B. Dent on August 31, 1894.

TO: Walter F. Crowder

FROM: James E. Duvall and wife of Washington, D.C.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 5, folio 458.

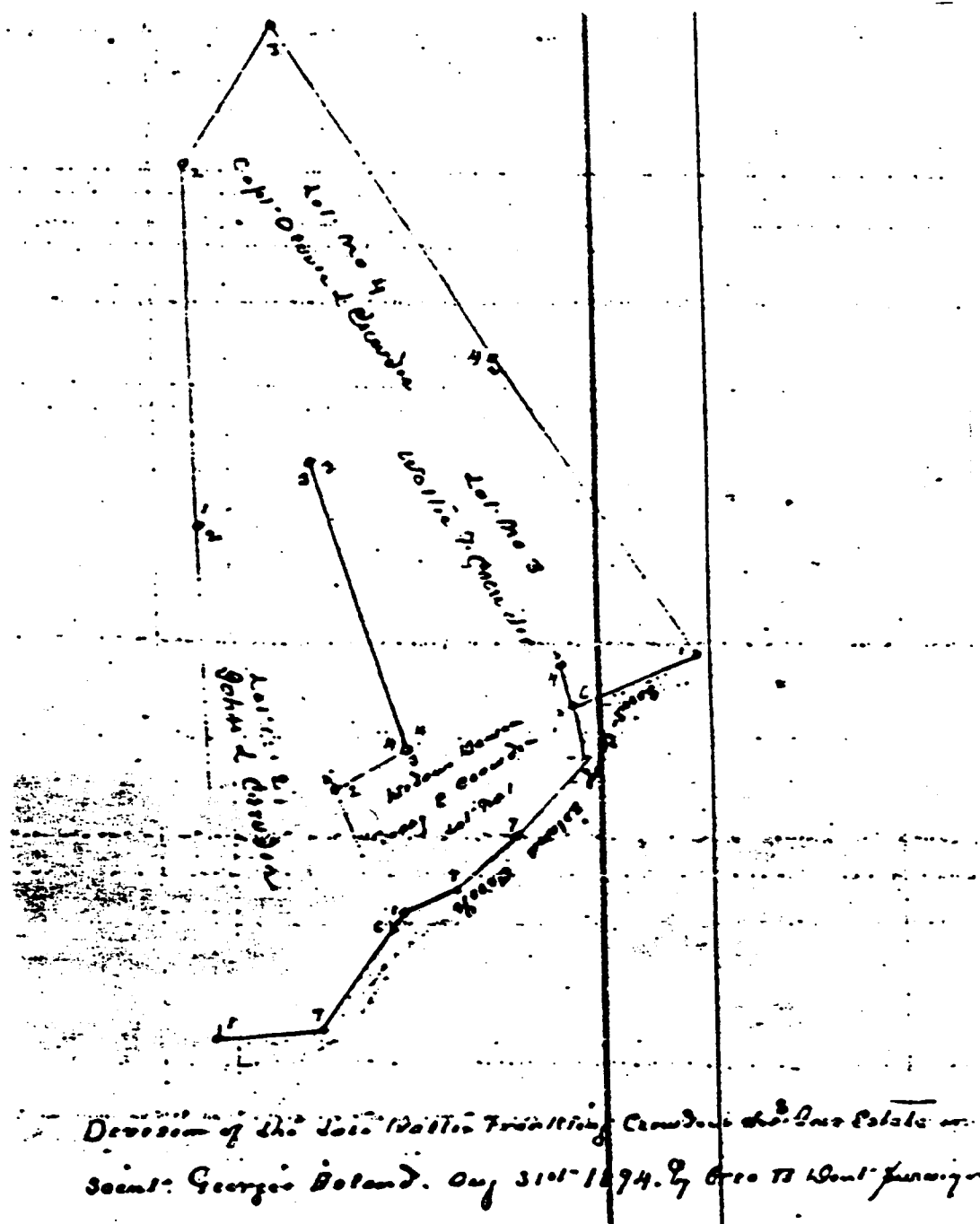
DATE: March 13, 1872.

NOTES: Transfer of the "piece of ground on St. Georges Island...situate on the south side of Island Creek, beginning at said creek and thence by a straight line southwest to a marked gum tree, thence to the road and with the road to Robrecht's line southeast thence to said Island Creek east north east to the beginning, being 10 acres +/-...."

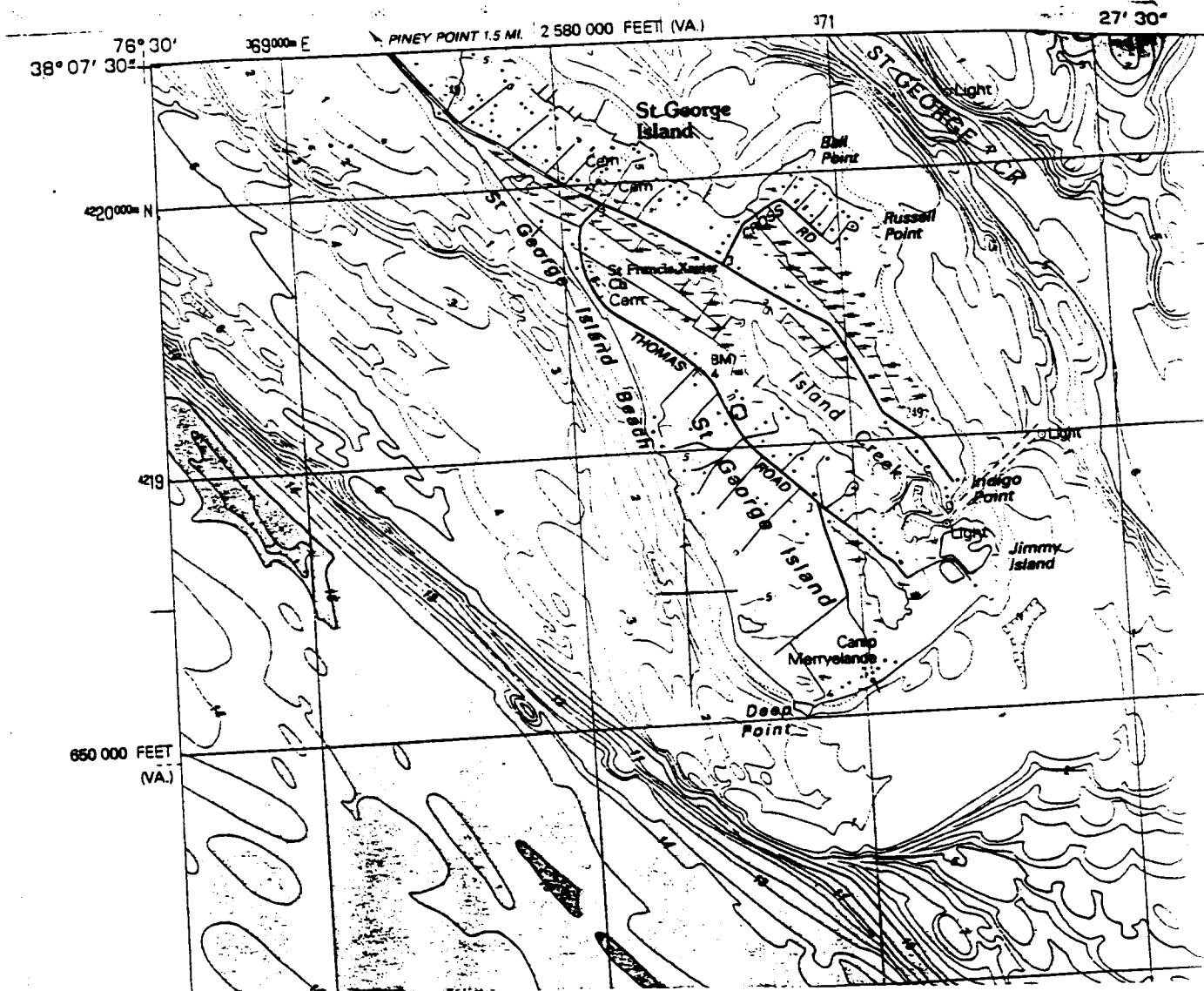
SM-471, Walter F. Crowder House  
 St. Mary's County  
 8.3 Significance

Survey plat of "Division of the late Walter Franklin Crowder, deceased, Real Estate on Saint George's Island, August 31, 1894, George B. Dent, Surveyor."

Source: George B. Dent Surveyor Log Books, Book D, folio 39 held by the St. Mary's County Historical Society.



SM-471  
Walter F. Crowder House  
St. George Island  
St. George Island Quad



**ST. GEORGE ISLAND, MD.-VA.**

**38076-A4-TB-024**

## 1987

DMA 5760 III SW-SERIES V833







